

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

February 6, 2012

Adam Kissel, Vice President of Programs
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

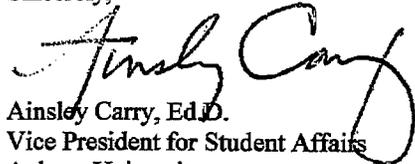
Dear Mr. Kissel,

Auburn University, just like any other institution of higher education, has a number of community standards that guide our residential experience. For obvious safety reasons, we prohibit certain materials from the residence halls, such as candles. For similar reasons, Auburn has always had a community standard governing materials hung outside and inside residence hall windows. The community standard was modified in the fall of 2011 and uniformly implemented soon thereafter. Since the community standard was modified, a handful of students have been asked to remove a variety of poster materials from windows and all of them complied. One of these students was asked to remove a poster which happened to promote a political candidate. This request to comply with our community standards sparked the claim that Auburn University violated a student's First Amendment rights. Enforcement efforts continue and when we become aware of a potential violation we address it.

Almost 4,000 students live in Auburn University residence halls; more than 65 percent of them are first-year students. Our FIRST responsibility to our residential community is their safety, health, and wellbeing. Every community standard is reviewed annually and evaluated based on our most important criteria: "Will this community standard help to keep students safe?" All materials, regardless of content, are prohibited from being posted in residence hall windows. Students are permitted to hang posters on the inside walls of their residence hall room, but posters on windows are not permitted.

Auburn University respects the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and expression of all students, faculty, and staff members. We live in an academic community where open discourse is welcomed and encouraged. We value differing opinions and freedom of expression. We also deeply value the health and safety of our students. We will pursue any reasonable measure to ensure their safety and security.

Sincerely,



Ainsley Carry, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Auburn University